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09/176,171	10/21/1998	DOREEN Y. CHENG	PHA23.503	7868

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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS

AND INTERFERENCES

Paper No. *25*

Application Number: 09/176,171

Filing Date: 10/21/1998

Appellant(s): Cheng

MAILED

JUN 2 1 2002

Technology Center 2600

Anne E. Barschall

For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed on March 21,2002.

(1)   *Real Party in Interest*

A statement identifying the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2)   *Related Appeals and Interferences*

A statement identifying the related appeals and interferences which will directly affect or be direct

affected by or have a bearing on the decision in the pending appeal is contained in the brief.

(3)   *Status of Claims*

The statement of the status of the claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4)   *Status of Amendments After Final*

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is

correct.

(5)   *Summary of Invention*

The summary of invention contained in the brief is correct.

(6) *Issues*

The appellant's statement of the issues in the brief is correct.

(7)   *Grouping of Claims*

Appellant's brief includes a statement that claims 17-33 do not stand or fall together and provides

reasons as set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7) and (c)(8).

(8)   *Claims Appealed*

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(9)   *Prior Art of Record*

The following is a listing of the prior art of record relied upon in the rejection of claims under app

5,706,191	Bassett et al.	01-1998
5,748,083	Rietkerk	05-1998
5,898,831	Hall et al.	04-1999
5,714,933	Le Van Suu	02-1998

(10)   Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claims 17-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103. This rejection is set forth in prior Office Action,

Paper No. 20.

(11)   Response to Argument

Regarding claim 17: Bassett et al. discloses a system for the appliances (25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55

60, 65) are plugged into a distributed network (20) which a plurality of these appliances communicates to

effect a control of the appliances (Fig. 1), a first appliances (25) of the plurality of appliances having a firs

appliance component that is configured to effect a primary function of the first appliance that is independe

of security (see Figs. 1, 15). Bassett et al. also discloses an appliance interface module (AIM) (70) for

providing a monitoring and diagnostic functions of the appliance (col. 6, lines 5-14; col. 7, lines 34-57; co

lines 50-62); and to communicate and detected failures and/or danger conditions to controller (15); thus, t

an appliance interface module (AIM) (70) including a processor (151) (Fig. 15) for detecting the failures a

danger is merely an alarm activation processor for activating an alarm signal to the remote control of an

alarm or unsafe condition of the appliance (col. 8, lines 50-62). The Rietkerk reference was added to show

monitoring system for monitoring a plurality of appliances connected in a network.

Regarding claim 18: The Examiner agrees with appellant's argument concerning the alarm activat

processor; however, as cited in claim 17 above, Bassett et al. also discloses an appliance interface module

(AIM) (70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 78) for providing a monitoring and diagnostic functions of the appliances (25, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65)(col. 6, lines 5-14; col. 7, lines 34-57; col. 8, lines 50-62); and to communicate a detected failures and/or danger conditions to controller (15); thus, the appliance interface module (AIM) (including a processor (151) (Fig. 15) for detecting the failures and danger is merely an alarm activation processor for activating an alarm signal to the remote control of an alarm or unsafe condition of the applia (col. 8, lines 50-62). The Rietkerk reference was added to show a monitoring system for monitoring a plurality of appliances connected in a network.

Regarding claims 19, 20, 27, 28, 30 and 31: Bassett et al. does not disclose a respective HAVi and Home API-compliant module; however, Bassett et al. discloses an interactive appliance interface and management system that are plugged into a distributed network (20) which a plurality of these appliances communicates to effect a control of the appliances (abstract; Fig. 1) which are home appliances that are programmed and interfaced to work with one another to provide a security monitoring and diagnostic system. Thus, these devices are programmed to work in compliance with one another. Therefore, it woul have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a security system for the home or office in protecting the appliances with programming capability.

Regarding claims 26 and 29: See the response of claim17 above.

Regarding claims 21-23: The Examiner agrees with Appellant's arguments and therefore, would considered these claims (21-23).

Regarding claims 24 and 31: Bassett et al. discloses an appliance interface module (AIM) (70) for providing a monitoring and diagnostic functions of the appliance (col. 6, lines 5-14; col. 7, lines 34-57; co lines 50-62); and to communicate and detected failures and/or danger conditions to controller (15); thus, t

appliance interface module (AIM) (70) including a processor (151) (Fig. 15) for detecting the failures and

danger is merely an alarm activation processor for activating an alarm signal to the remote control of an

alarm or unsafe condition of the appliance (col. 8, lines 50-62). Le Van Suu discloses an area security dev

(13) for detecting an area status of area wherein the activation processor is also operably coupled to the ar

security device (13) and further effects each alarm response dependent on the area status (col. 4, lines 8-2

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

made to provide an area security device as taught by Le Van Suu in a system as disclosed by Bassett et al.

view of Rietkerk to provide a detector for monitoring the surrounding area of the electronic appliances an

for the purpose of providing additional security by monitoring intrusion into the area of the protected

appliances.

Regarding claims 25 and 33: Rietkerk discloses the appliance being an asset (107) to be protected

includes a desktop computer, a notebook computer, a laptop computer, a printer, a keyboard, a computer

monitor, etc. (col. 4, lines 44-54; Fig. 2); thus, Rietkerk discloses a plurality of appliances having an alarm

activation processor (141), operably coupled to the status reporter (117), for receiving the status and

effecting the alarm response dependent on the status and dependent upon the rule base associated with the

appliance (col. 4, lines 23-29; col. 5, lines 42-53, 64-67; col. 6, lines 1-2; Figs. 1A, 1B, 2, 3 and 4). Thus

the rule base is to identify whether the event is an alarm detection condition (e.g. motion or circuit

disruption) or a tamper condition (e.g. APD removal/intrusion, or cord damage) and to notify security

personnel to the location of the alarm and/or tamper condition (col. 5, lines 42-53, 64-67; col. 6, lines 1-2

(12)   Conclusion

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Art Unit: 2632
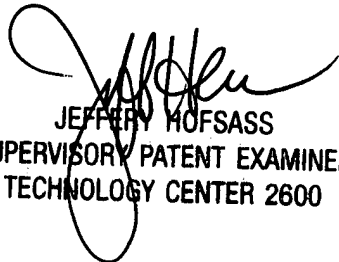
Respectfully submitted,

Toan Pham

December 6, 2001

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